From: David Griffith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am a software engineer and have operated in many facets of the software and networking world for the past 5 years. Somewhat new to the industry, I came into this with a non-bias opinion and have been able to formulate one based on experience.

I don't see Microsoft as a monopoly. Contrary, I think that most software vendors lack the inoventention of Microsoft due to the lack of vision. Many software vendors are more concerned about producing mass software in a cookie cutter fashion and treat the software industry like a manufacturing one. The downside, is we are not an assembly line and software produced like it is comes out looking like it.

I respect Microsoft ability to adjust to growing market trends, changes, and expansion. Most companies lack the ability to do that as well. Cisco, Macintosh, producers of Linux and Unix are all guilty of producing products that constantly look and operate the same as their predicessors. I used to own a Mac and I don't see much that has changed over the years, other than the fact that they have tried to simulate what Microsoft has done in order to stay competitive. Linux vendors are just as guilty of copy-catting.

On the topic of government involvement, is one issue I have strong oppinions. The consumer is currently getting a better deal with more feature rich applications from every software vender including Microsoft, than ever before. Government intervention on this matter only slows that process and hurts the consumer. Any action government takes to change the way software is delivered will only mean dollars costs to the consumer. Microsoft does not use competitors technology advancements to advance their own or use their dollars in a way that constitutes unfair competition. They just deliver quality and quantitative software.

I hope that my opinion matters and that government will realize the impact of their involvement and resolve this matter completely. Thanks,

David Griffith